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Career Fact Sheet *Energy Efficiency Tools for the Career Counselor*

San Diego-Imperial Region

This data was prepared for California Community Colleges and pertains to community college-level coursework as a resource for counselors to share with students.

The Bottom Line

California has moved aggressively to establish a legislative and policy framework that puts energy efficiency at the forefront, in an effort to meet the state's increasing energy needs and fight global warming. Firms that hire energy efficiency workers are found in multiple industries. The following are five industry groups with the greatest concentration of energy efficiency occupational opportunities. This information comes from a San Diego-Imperial regional study of energy efficiency conducted by the COE in 2009. More information on this study, including other regions within California, can be found at www.coecc.net/energy.

Utilities & Resource Management

Includes occupations that are engaged in assessment and planning for energy efficiency.

Design & Construction of New Buildings

Includes occupations that are focused on building and designing new energy efficient structures (residential and commercial focus, new structures only).

Retrofitting Homes

Includes occupations that are focused on building and designing energy efficient homes (residential focus, existing buildings only).

Retro-commissioning Buildings

Includes occupations that are focused on building and designing energy efficient facilities (commercial focus, existing buildings only).

Facility or Building Operation & Maintenance

Includes occupations focused on repair and maintenance of new energy efficiency systems that are used in new and retrofitted buildings and facilities.

Regional Snapshot

Eight energy efficiency occupations were identified as high-growth and can be trained for at community colleges. Below is a table that details these occupations and their growth potential in San Diego and Imperial counties. More detailed occupational information is available in the complete environmental scan (see Appendix I) at www.coecc.net/energy or visit online.onetcenter.org.

Energy Efficiency Occupations	2009 Employment Estimate	3-year Projected Growth	Growth Rate	Entry Level Median Annual Wage	Experienced Level Median Annual Wage
Project managers for construction or design work	2,910	580	20%	\$50,000	\$75,700
Building performance or retrofitting specialists	1,550	310	20%	\$40,800	\$70,000
HVAC mechanics, technicians or installers	1,790	440	25%	\$38,300	\$60,200
Energy auditors or home energy raters	920	150	17%	\$40,000	\$75,000
Resource conservation or energy efficiency managers	1,160	240	21%	\$56,600	\$80,000
Building controls systems technician	1,410	340	24%	\$40,800	\$69,700
Compliance analyst or energy regulation specialists	540	290	53%	\$47,800	\$62,400
Building operators or building engineers	1,510	260	17%	\$43,300	\$58,200
Total, All Occupations (totals may not add due to rounding)	11,780	2,610			

Student Tips

- **Skills Employers Seek:** Employers emphasize that communication skills [written and verbal] are the most important skills they value in new employees.
- **Internships Encouraged:** A recent survey of energy efficiency firms in the San Diego-Imperial Region revealed that 71% of employers expressed interest in working with colleges to provide internships for students. Key associations connected to employers working within the energy efficiency sector include:
 - American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers [ASHRAE], www.ashrae.org
 - San Diego Gas and Electric [SDG&E], www.sdge.com
 - US Green Building Council [USGBC], San Diego Chapter, www.usgbc-sd.org

For an expanded list of community support and resources in San Diego and Imperial counties, download the complete environmental scan at www.coecc.net/energy.

Educational Track

Here is a listing of community colleges in the San Diego-Imperial Region offering energy efficiency industry programs. For more information, access the environmental scan at www.coecc.net/energy.

COLLEGE	Energy Efficiency Occupations							
	Energy Auditor or Home Energy Rater	Building Performance or Retro-fitting Specialist	Compliance Analyst or Energy Regulation Specialist	Project Manager for Construction or Design Work	HVAC Mechanic, Technician or Installer	Resource Conservation or Energy Efficiency Manager	Building Controls Systems Technician	Building Operator or Building Engineer
Level of Preparation for and Programs Related to Each Occupation								
Cuyamaca	P – UD							
Imperial Valley				I – X	P – D		I – X	I – X
Palomar	P – C	I – C						
San Diego City		P – UD		I – C	P – D		P – X	
San Diego Continuing Ed.		P – C						
San Diego Mesa				I – D				I – D
Southwestern	P – UD			P – D				

Type of Training Program

I = Introduces to Occupation; P = Fully Prepares for Occupation
 X = Course; C = Certificate Program(s); D = Degree Program(s); UD = Under Development

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